

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOR S/S RUST DEMING FROM MARK DION

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FROM USDEL OASGA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG OAS OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJ: BILATERAL BETWEEN HAITI AND THE US

1. PARTICIPANTS: US: THE SECRETARY, MR. HABIB, AMB TODMAN,
MRS VAN REIGENSBERG (INTERPRETER), MS. JANET RUBEN (NOTETAKER).
MAITI: FOREIGN MINISTER EDNER BRUTUS, AMBASSADOR GEORGES
SALOMON, MR. FRANCOIS. GRENADA, JUNE 15, 1977.

2. SUBJECTS: HUMAN RIGHTS; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

3. BRUTUS OPENED THE SUBSTANTIVE PART OF THE CONVERSATION WITH THE
STATEMENT THAT LATIN AMERICA CANNOT BE VIEWED AS A UNIT.
HE COMPLIMENTED THE SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT CARTER FOR
RECOGNIZING THIS. HE SAID THAT HAITI HAS FELT A VERY
DIFFERENT ATTITUDE TOWARD IT FROM THE U.S. SINCE THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION TOOK OVER.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER THANKED THE SECRETARY FOR THE
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SPEEDY ASSISTANCE WHICH THE US PROVIDED DURING THE
RECENT DROUGHT AND ENERGY SHORTAGE IN HAITI. HE ALSO
MENTIONED THE \$30 MILLION GRANT WHICH HAITI IS HOPING
TO GET FROM AID FOR SCHOOLS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION
FROM THE SECRETARY, HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH AID
BUT AGREED THAT LESS BUREAUCRACY WOULD BE BETTER.

5. BRUTUS WENT ON TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS A PERIOD IN HAITI'S HISTORY WHEN WHAT HE CALLED A "DEEP SOCIAL REVOLUTION" BROUGHT REPRESSION. HE SAID THAT THERE IS NO POLITICAL BATTLE IN HAITI NOW, THAT PRESIDENT DUVALIER IS WORKING FOR THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND THAT PEACE PREVAILS. HE ADDED THAT HAITI IS TAKING MEASURES TO RETURN TO A COMPLETELY NORMAL POLITICAL SITUATION BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN BELIEF IN HUMAN RIGHTS, NOT BECAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE.

5. SECRETARY VANCE NOTED THAT THE US HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT FURTHER STEPS LIKE THIS WOULD BE TAKEN. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WERE WILLING TO OPEN THEMSELVES TO VISITS BY THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, IT WOULD ENCOURAGE THE LESS WILLING COUNTRIES TO DO SO AS WELL.

6. BRUTUS THEN ALLEGED THAT STORIES ABOUT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI COME FROM EXILES IN THE US AND ELSEWHERE. HE SAID THAT NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO CITE A SINGLE NAME OF A POLITICAL PRISONER IN HAITI. BRUTUS AGREED THAT ALL COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE SHOULD PROMISE TO UPHOLD HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT HE CAUTIONED THE SECRETARY THAT THE US MUST BE PATIENT IN EXPECTING ALL OTHER COUNTRIES TO MEET U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS.

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